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STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

EXAMINERS

By: Susan C. Berger

Deputy Attorney General Tel. No. (973)648-4876

> STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS EXAMINERS COUNSELOR PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF

Administrative Action

STEVE GORDON RUSSELL

ENGAGING IN THE UNLICENSED PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened before the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee (hereinafter "the Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners upon review of Mr. Russell's application for licensure as a Professional Counselor. Mr. Russell disclosed in his application that he had been working as a counselor in a for-profit setting, Vision/Quest, New Lisbon, New Jersey under the supervision of Jan David Segal, Ph.D.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Committee that the applicant has engaged in the unlicensed practice of professional counseling, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39(a), as he does not hold any license which would entitle him to provide such services in a for-profit setting in New Jersey.

It appearing that the applicant desires to resolve this matter without further proceedings, and the Committee finding this Consent Order to be adequately protective of the public interest, and other good cause appearing;

ring;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 574 DAY OF MAY, 2008

ORDERED:

- 1. Mr. Russell shall immediately cease and desist from offering to engage in or engaging in professional counseling in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39(a) unless and until he is licensed by the Committee or otherwise licensed or certified in the State of New Jersey to provide mental health counseling or to engage in professional counseling practice pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-48.
- 2. None of the supervised hours performed by Mr. Russell in any for-profit setting shall count toward the mandatory hours of supervised experience required for licensure as a Professional Counselor, unless and until he is licensed as an Associate Counselor.
- 3. Mr. Russell shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). Payment shall be made by certified check or money order, payable to the "State of New Jersey" and sent to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101. The civil penalty shall be paid simultaneously with the signing of the within order.

4. Failure to remit payment as required by this Order will result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt and such other proceedings as are permitted by law.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

J. Parry Mascari, Ed.D., LPC

President

I have read the above Order and I understand and agree to abide by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee of the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners to enter this

Order.

Steve Gordon Russell